

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-20 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. In addition, Claims 21-27 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 21-27 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 8 and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 188,531 to Chang et al. (hereinafter “Chang”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,113 to Meyer et al. (hereinafter “Meyer”). The Examiner also rejected Claims 3-7, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Meyer as applied to Claims 1 and 15, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,053 to Takahashi (hereinafter “Takahashi”). Finally, the Examiner rejected Claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Meyer as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,449,110 to DeGroat et al. (hereinafter “DeGroat”).

In order to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-20 and are presenting new Claims 21-27.

II. New Claims

Applicants believe that Claims 21-27 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references because none of the cited references teach the steps of performing a bit error rate test to determine a maximum write current based on a measured temperature and then performing a write instability test using said maximum write current, wherein said maximum write current is

adjusted if the write instability test is not satisfied. Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 21-27 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

III. Additional Claim Fees

Applicants believe that no claim fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed the above comments establish patentability. Applicants do not necessarily accede to the assertions and statements in the Office Action, whether or not expressly addressed.

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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